

Western Kentucky University
TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

7-20-1977

UA68/8/2 Mary Eshman Grise Oral History

Dorothy Dodson

WKU Oral History Committee

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records

Recommended Citation

Dodson, Dorothy, "UA68/8/2 Mary Eshman Grise Oral History" (1977). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 704.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/704

This Transcription is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

Produced by Oral History Committee
Department of History
Western Kentucky University

Dorothy Dodson: My mother, Mrs. F. C. Grise, and I are having a conversation about some things that went on at Western; and the time that we're talking about is when she and my father came to Western where he was a member of the faculty in the year 1918 and from that time on. And we're going to talk about a few things here. First about some of the buildings on the hill, and I'll let her tell you about some of the buildings that were here at the time that she first came.

Mrs. Grise: Nature covered the hill with magnificent cedars, but there came a blight and they were left destroyed. Someone with the gift of vision saw in these future capacities materials of beauty. So, by student power the cedar logs were hewed into form, stone was quarried, and by student power, gradually, the Cedar House took form. Today it offers a home of rare beauty for the social events of the college.

DD: Now, what we'd like to tell you is something about the old village which served as residence places for many of the people who were at Western, and I'll let her tell you something about the old Village now.

Mrs. G: Early in 1919, it became apparent that a crisis was eminent in the rooming situation due to the sudden increase of Bowling Green's normal population because of the oil boom. Prices of rooms in town became prohibitive to people who were coming to school; even emergency would become a key. To meet this condition, President Cherry conceived the idea of the Village. This plan was adopted for financing the village. The student paid to the institution the exact amount of the cost of the building. The house then became his property and he retained possession of it, if he so desired, from four to eight years, the time depending

upon the cost of the house and the end of the period. After the end of the period, it reverted to the state. If the occupant wished to relinquish the house at the end of one year, one half of the purchase price was refunded; at the end of two years, one fourth; at the end of three years, one eighth. Seventy-six cottages appeared among the cedars and vines on the back of the hill. They were simple houses - one, two, three, and four rooms - offering to the students an opportunity to have a home at a very moderate cost. The plan became popular and before a house was completed occupants were waiting to move in. The village soon developed into a town with a post office. It was managed by a mayor and it was given the name of Cherrytown by the students composing its population. Cherrytown became a community of kindred spirits and common aims. It was Western's solution to the problem of a congested condition and the high cost of living.

DD: Now she's going to tell you a little bit about the gymnasium which is quite different from the one you see on the hill now.

Mrs. G: In the lean days of the institution an old shell of a gymnasium was built to take care of the ever-increasing classes in Physical Education. The building was hot in the summer and cold in the winter and leaked like the sieve in wet weather. But the young women who occupied this building were devoted and loyal and they made up the clientele. Neither the heat, cold, or the moisture affected their spirits or their goodwill. They shivered through their exercises in the winter, panted through them in the summer, hopped from puddle to puddle and dodged from drip to drip in rainy weather, but always with smiling faces and good humor. And during the summer of 1921 when no dormitories had yet been built and the oil boom in Bowling Green had made the housing problem acute, more than forty young women arrived for the summer term

to find no accommodations available. That's when the gymnasium was hastily divided up into improvised bedrooms. Canvas was used for partitions, a few cots and chairs thrown in for good measure, and these young women dwelt together for six weeks all the better and richer in understanding.

DD: The next building is the old College Heights Foundation which is quite different from the very new and modern Foundation that we have on the hill now.

Mrs. G: The spirit of teacher's college is its greatest asset. The College Heights Foundation is one of the manifestations of this spirit. When the Foundation was launched and a call was issued for financial support, the spirit prompted students and friends of the school to respond to the extent of subscribing \$225,000. If they could not give much, they gave little. They gave according to the size of their pocketbook, their education, and their earning capacity. And since the organization of the Foundation, it has afforded proof of its utility, having made 4000 different student loans amounting to \$135,000. In addition to this, the Foundation is sponsoring the erection of the Kentucky Building. When finished it will be a thing of beauty and a joy forever in the hearts and minds of those who may visit it in the years to come.

DD: Now, this old College Heights Foundation Building, isn't it up there on top of the hill?

Mrs. G: Uh-huh, it's this little thing right there. (Note: The ladies were looking at a picture when this statement was made.)

DD: Yes, but it was up on top of the hill, then.

Mrs. G: This, then, is the Foundation's contribution thus far to the institution and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

DD: One of the buildings that has gone completely from the hill is old Potter College. Cherry Hall stands where that building was now, and this was the original recitation hall and the training school at one time was housed in this building. And the old bookstore was in this building and that was torn down completely and Cherry Hall was put in its place. I'd like to tell you a little bit here about the old Rural School which is no longer in existence. This was a building that was used in conjunction with the training school to help to train teachers who would be going out in the rural area and teaching in one-room schools. And Miss Ethel Clark was the teacher at the time in the Rural School and this was down on the lower part of the campus, down on the Normal Boulevard of the campus. And that was torn away some years ago and all the modern buildings that are in there now took place of the old Rural School. Two other buildings that I would like to tell you about for myself are the two old buildings (music) that I knew before the larger one was built and even before Ivan Wilson Center was built. What was once - what is now Diddle Dorm was once the old music building, and they they moved down to the hill, down to the bottom of the hill, down to the bottom of the hill into another smaller building and there were several teachers who had offices and studios in that building. And then that was moved down to the other third music building a little bit further on the foot of the hill there, where it remained until the Ivan Wilson Center was built just several years ago. That Home Management Cottage...

Mrs. G: The Home Management House located on the Ogden Campus (you remember where it was)...

DD: Yeah.

Mrs. G: ...is a modern, well-equipped six room bungalow.

DD: Yeah, that's right. It was down there on the campus.

Mrs. G: This house was used as a workshop for theory and experimentation and actual homemaking activities. The senior home economics girls lived here for a period of eight weeks. Each girl takes her turn in organization and supervision.

DD: Well, that little building where Mr. Strahm and Mr. Hugh Johnson had their offices and studios was once the Home Management House, too.

Mrs. G: The Music Hall is a handsome two-story stone and concrete building which contains the studios of piano, voice, and violin teachers and practice rooms and auditorium.

DD: Now, let's go back.

Mrs. G: The Italian Garden with its beautiful marble statues of the seasons is a gift from Mr. Perry Snell of St. Petersburg, Florida, as is also the magnificent collection of paintings, tapestry, and other handsome European museum pieces temporarily placed in the library building. A beautiful picture on memory's wall in the minds of the old students and of the college is that of the annual Chestnut Hunt.

DD: This is one of the big social events of the Hill. You said that they rode out to this hunt in a thing called a wagonette. Didn't have seats in it like a regular wagon, but it had seats on the sides. We were talking about the Chestnut Hunt. This was one of the big fine events that the students and faculty had. There painted the glorious autumn day, the gracefully winding road, the peaceful river, quiet eternal hills, and an old cabin home with real fence and orchard, rich with its own fruitage. The gold tinting of the broom sedge, persimmon bushes, wild grapes hanging in purple clusters, rich brown chestnuts under the withering leaves, a glorious band of enthusiastic youths greeted by a loved and loving old couple, the parents of two brothers who established the institution, hours spent in God's out-of-doors (the spirit of the beautiful fraternity of teachers and students. Then there was the long and joyous ride in the twilight back to the city and to the work. It was called the Chestnut Hunt, but chestnuts were rarely hunted. It was a finer thing. It was a visit to the shrine at which the Cherrys gathered their power. Another social activity for the students was when many of the churches of the town provided entertainment for them. They took them into their homes and entertained them and fed them and tried to become acquainted with them and Mrs. H. H. Cherry, back in the early years of the college," was mad the social (what'd you call her?)...

Mrs. G: Director of Social Features.

DD:...Director of Social Features for the students and she planned many social activities for the students of the Hill. Two other social activities that stand out in my mind of my time were the faculty picnics that we always had each year. Many of the ones that we had were out at Beech Bend Park and then we used to always have watermelon cutting

down on the Ogden Campus every year about this time of year. This'll be concerning the Kentucky Building.

Mrs. G: "Back of the deed was the doer; back of the doer the dream." These words describe the founder of Western Kentucky University and they tell why he considered the Kentucky Building one of the grandest deeds Western might ever undertake. Dr. Cherry introduced the dream one morning in a chapel program in Van Meter Auditorium. People at Western were thrilled. The dream was publicized far and wide, pledges were made, funds poured in. Then came the Stock Market Crash of 1929. But the people, inspired by the dream, did not forsake the doer and the Kentucky Building eventually was completed, two years after Dr. Cherry's death. Today the Kentucky Building Library and Museum would be the pride of the doer himself. Western Alumnus presents a special issue at the opening of 1975-1976 as a report to Westerners everywhere that the dream which became the deed is more than ever serving the ends for which it was created. The Kentucky Building opened on Founder's Day, November 16, 1939 housing the Kentucky Library and Museum, a storehouse for books, manuscripts. Since that time there's been a steady growth of the collections which continues today. The Kentucky Building serves as a regional historical center for the study and research of state and local history and geneology. The largest public user of the Kentucky Building Program is the student body at Western. Large groups come to study Kentucky history, historic textiles, oratory, furniture, and many other topics including art and historiography. The Board of Regents has approved the recommendation for the 76-78 biannual budget request to include plans for the expansion and renovation of the Kentucky Library and Museum. Miss Gabrielle Robertson, a member of the History Department for many years and a strong backer of the Kentucky Building goals, lectures to a Kentucky history class in the Kentucky

library. One Founder's Day, November 16, 1939, a little more than two years after the death of Dr. Cherry, the impressive structure was dedicated officially. Among the speakers at that occasion was the late John B. Rodes, Bowling Green attorney, who had worked closely with Dr. Cherry: "This was one of his dreams not entirely realized before his death and many of you will find today a heartfelt satisfaction in celebrating the completion of what he so much desired." The task, in other words, is never finished. All of this type of material as it is acquired is added to the research files in the department and becomes available to our own staff or to scholars doing study in a related field. Dr. Cherry sought to preserve in one building the history of the Commonwealth for all Kentuckians to view and use. That remains the basic principle of the Kentucky Library.

DD: I'd like to read from a portion of a letter here from Mr. J. R. Whitmer who was chairman of the fund for Dr. Cherry's bronze statue which many of you see on the hill. It was written to Western Graduates.

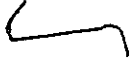
Our great educational leader, President H. H. Cherry, has passed on, but the dynamic personality which has inspired thousands with whom he came in contact, lives on. His motto, "Life, more life," is a challenge to the 60,000 students who have been with him on the hill. No doubt the greatest joy in life was to provide an opportunity for the young men and women of his native state to develop in body, mind, and soul. The individual debt of thousands to this great pioneer educational leader of Kentucky can never be paid, but we may have an opportunity to express our personal tribute in bronze, his statue carved from life by a master artist the late Laredo Taft.

The statue was unveiled on November 18 of 1937 which was Dr. Cherry's seventy-third birthday. The original price of the statue was \$20,000. It was considerably reduced by Dr. Taft because of his friendship of President Cherry and his interest in the fact that the subscriptions would come from people who spend their lives in service but have only limited means.

Mrs. G: "It's fitting that so many of you are gathered here from so many different places to pay tribute to the distinguished leader who, through his labor and devotion, so largely made this college what it is. His spirit and personality will, I'm sure, live forever as a vital influence on this Hill. President Paul L. Garrett has said, 'How fine for us, and especially for those who shall come after us, that a great artist saw him and portrayed him in lasting bronze so that ages hence those who gather on this campus, as they feel his spirit, may see him as he was.'"

"It is fitting that this service should be presided over by one who loved Dr. Cherry as a student and who was his faithful co-worker and his devoted friend.' As such, Dean F. C. Grise was presented in charge of the memorial service by President Garrett." The first student to enroll in this college after it became a state institution was Herman Lee Donevan. He was one of the first to graduate. For ten years he was president of the Eastern Kentucky State Teacher's College. His subject for the memorial service: 'Henry Hardin Cherry, The Inspirer of Youth.' ...student and teacher in the old Southern Normal School which was the immediate predecessor of the Western Teacher's College and of which Dr. Cherry was for fourteen years president. Dr. J. L. Harmon has for thirty-one years been connected with Bowling Green Business University, 16 of these years as president. This institution was formerly a part of the old Southern Normal. It is

fitting that he should present 'Dr. Cherry, The Man.' There are few people who've had the rare privilege of living and working with Dr. Cherry throughout his whole educational career. Among these is Professor J. R. Alexander, one of the few surviving members of the original faculty of Western Teacher's College. Probably no man has know better than Mr. Alexander the spiritual and mental attitudes or understood more fully those inner urges, those visions and dreams which carried Dr. Cherry along the way to successfu achievements. Mr. Alexander will interpret for us 'The Other Thing.' Dr. A. M. Stickles, head of the Department of History, is one of the four members of the original Normal School faculty who is still on College Heights. His active participation in the affairs of the college and his class ~~ass~~ociation with Dr. Cherry for more than thirty years have given him an unusually fine opportunity to know first hand the basic principles underlying the methods and procedures which Dr. Cherry employed in his efforts to bring the youth of Kentucky "Life, more life." It is particularly appropriate that Dr. Stickles should have as his subject, 'Henry Hardin Cherry, The Practical Philosopher.' A committee of 20 or more persons have been responsible for planning and carrying on the campaign for the erection of the bronze statue of Dr. Cherry. As chairman of this committee, Mr. J. R. Whitmer has been most untiring and effective in his efforts. As chairman of this committee, Mr. J. R. Whitmer has been most untiring and effective in his efforts. We are probably indebted to him more than to anyone else for this achievement. Mr. Whitmer presided, during the ceremonies, the unveiling of the statue. Following the memorial service and unveiling ceremonies on November 16, excerpts from these two programs were broadcast over station WHAS from 4 to 4:30 o'clock. This program included the first broadcast of the beautiful chimes recently installed in Henry Hardin Cherry Hall. The regular chapel exercises held in Van Meter Hall on

November 10 were devoted to the ceremony of placing certain memorials in a copper box which was placed in the granite base of the bronze statue erected in honor of Dr. H. H. Cherry in front of the new Henry Hardin Cherry Hall. Ten members of the faculty who have been continuously in the employment of the college for 25 years or more were in charge of this program. They were: Miss Mattie McLain, Miss Florence Schneider, Miss Elizabeth Woods, Miss Ella Jeffried, Professor W. J. Craig, Mr. R. H. Seward, Professor Franz J. Strahm, Mr. R. C. Woodard, and Professor J. R. Alexander. The materials placed in the box were selected for the purpose of preserving a partial record of the educational achievements of Dr. Cherry and a more or less complete history of the college from its founding to the present. 

DD: These are some things that have been taken from the memorial service for the unveiling of the statue in 1937.

'This statue of Dr. Cherry was the last work of Laredo Taft. Laredo Taft died on October 30, 1936. This proved to be the last major work of the world-famous American sculptor whose heroic statuary stands from coast-to-coast throughout the nation. He was born in Elmwood, Illinois in 1860, the son of a professor in the University of Illinois. Among the other famous works of Mr. Taft are the impressive Lincoln at Urban, Illinois; the Thatcher Memorial Fountain in Denver; Alma Mater at the University of Illinois - Urbana; The Crusader at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago; The Hackland Memorial in Muskegan, Michigan; and the Washington Monument in Seattle.'

I would like to say something about Western's annual KEA Breakfast. This, I understand now, is a thing of the past, but it was at one

time one of the greatest occasions for all faculty members and students and graduates of Western. It was a great meeting place for everyone. The alumni, faculty, students, and friends made this one of Western's greatest hours, reflecting the great spirit which is so much a part of the college. Who can forget the hard rolls, limp bacon, and the over-cooked eggs? But who cared? Because it was the spirit of getting together that mattered the most and was long remembered. The fish fry was another great occasion for faculty members and for their families. This was held each year in connection with the conference of superintendents on the hill. It's usually held in July and it is still held, but it's not a thing like it used to be when we used to go to Mammoth Cave each year for what we might term a Great clambake.' All the families would gather for this great event. I'd like to tell you something here about Western's school song, College Heights. It was written by Mary Francis Bradley who still lives in Franklin, Kentucky. She wrote this song and dedicated it to Dr. H.H. Cherry, but it later became the school song. It was copyrighted in 1930. We who have been here so long thrill to the words of this song each time we hear or sing it. Mrs. Travelstead, who's sometimes affectionately called Nell Gooch, was one of the greats of the music department of Western, teacher of public school music in the training school and in the college. No one could ever direct community singing and chapel with as much force and enthusiasm as Mrs. Travelstead. She and you sing many good old times - times in the Golden Book of Songs like "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny," "Aunt Dinah's Quiltin' Patty," "Old Black Joe," and many others. Whether you wanted to sing or not, you sang when Mrs. Travelstead was up leading. Mr. Franz J. Strahm, who was one of the great piano instructors at Western, was German-born, was there for many years, and he also wrote a composition dedicated to Dr. Cherry. He copyrighted this in 1911 and it was

entitled "Kentucky State Normal March." Mr. Franz J. Strahm had a son who became an ace in World War I.

Mrs. G: In 1896 Mrs. H. H. Cherry was made Director of Social Features of the institution and with the help of the student staff she planned parties and socials for the students. The the Faculty Wives Club was organized in 1921 and it has continued since that date with the express purpose of promoting the best interest and welfare of the college. In accordance with the Faculty Wives' constitution, the wife of the Western's president is the president of the club. All other offices and committees are elected from the membership. The club has rendered outstanding services on numerous occasions and assistance has been given to any students and their wives through the efforts of the club. Whenever the Faculty Wives Club can assist the college with activities such as homecoming, receptions, serving on committees, or in other ways, the members have considered it a privilege to do so. The club meets monthly from October to May and also provides many social opportunities throughout the year. The wives of all members of the faculty and administrative staff are automatically enrolled as members of the Faculty Wives Club. The daily chapel was part of the student life of the Western Normal as it had been of the student life of the Southern Normal. President Cherry made an earnest effort to provide good chapel programs for the students and at the same time to allow students themselves a chance for self-expression. Most of the students took chapel rather seriously and regarded it as a place which offered a chance both for entertainment and self-improvement. Talking at chapel, talking at entertainments of a public nature, studying at chapel, leaving the hall before chapel is dismissed are items that were mentioned as needing to be looked after in the minutes of the faculty meetings. The minutes of the faculty meetings disclosed the fact that

1

even in the early days the department of some of the students at chapel was not very good. One suspects that President Cherry had to remind the faculty members occasionally of the effect which their conduct on the stage had upon the department of students in the auditorium. The faculty always sat on the stage during chapel.

DD: Yeah, I remember them. When I was in school they always sat on the stage. Everybody knew all the faculty members; everybody could see all the faculty members.

Mrs. G: The Mammoth Cave Trip, the steamboat excursion, and the Chestnut Hunt were all established traditions when the Western Normal was founded and each year the Western students looked forward to them. The Chestnut Hunt was held in October at the old Cherry homestead about nine miles from Bowling Green. The students started about sunrise, some riding in wagons or wagonettes and some walking, and arrived at the farm late in the morning. After a few chestnuts had been hunted and a great deal of food had been eaten, the students engaged in games and athletic contests of various kinds during the first part of the afternoon and then started back to town. A whole day was taken for the excursion on the boat and for the Chestnut Hunt and sometimes as many as 400 or 500 students went.

DD: The boatripe and the Chestnut Hunt weren't the same day, were they?

Mrs. G: No, but they're written up here together.

DD: Oh,

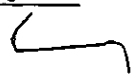
Mrs. G: Not so many students made the Mammoth Cave party. Not so many went on the boat excursion. The average number to the cave party was not over 50. The distance to the cave was about 35 miles. Some of the students rode in wagons and some walked the entire distance both ways. As one student described the trip in 1908: "The means of transportation are wagons for the girls and invalids, and sole leather for the distinctly masculine element." In 1912, two boys walked to the cave in 6 hours 55 minutes and 15 members of the 1912 group walked the entire round-trip. One day was usually spent on the way to the cave, two or three days at the cave, and another day for the return to Bowling Green. Another interesting time was when President Cherry designated March 24, 1911 as the First Annual Clean-Up day and for many years thereafter the students were dismissed from classes at least one day each spring and spent the entire day cleaning up and beautifying the campus. In the spring of 1908, the Western faculty went on record as favoring the establishment of a school paper to be published by the students, but it was not until November of 1909 that the first issue of the student publication of the Western Normal came from the press. The first student paper was named The Elevator. It was about 7x10 inches in size, printed in magazine form and usually had about 30 to 50 pages. The subscription price was 50 cents annually. The paper appeared monthly during the school year November 1909 to July 1960. The editors of The Elevator were: A. L. Crabb, 1909-10; G. C. Morris, November 1910; Gordan Wilson, February 1911; W. L. Matthews, 1912. The Elevator contained only a small amount of advertising; its contents consisted principally of the faculty, the students, and the alumni, short stories, poems, essays, and orations, written by the students, joke columns, the general news of school events. The Elevator was the only regular publication of the Normal Period. One yearbook entitled The Vista was published by the senior class in 1915. I have a copy of

of that. The College Heights Herald made its debut with an issue published in January 29, 1925. The 40th anniversary tribute to the College Heights Herald was held in 1925...

DD: No, 1965.

Mrs. G: ...in 1965.

DD: Whom did you say the first editor was? Right over there.

Mrs. G: Francis Richards was the first editor of the College Heights Herald. 

DD: Oh, it was Francis Richards, the first editor.

Mrs. G: The College Heights Herald student awards was always an interesting affair. Nineteen sixty-five dinner with Bob Cockran presiding...Miss Francis Richards and Mr. Robert Cockran always made the presentation of the awards received by the College Heights Herald. Concerning football, in 1900 H. H. Cherry announced at the commencement exercises of the Southern Normal that the school had and would recommend instead frequent nature excursions into the woods, hills, and on the river. Although the State Normal continued to encourage the excursions to the out-of-doors, they did not frown upon athletics as the Southern Normal had. Athletics were emphasized by the school during the whole of the Normal period, except the interruption caused by the World War. In 1910, the faculty voted to give athletics a trial. From that time forward till 1917 the athletics activities of Western students increased rapidly. By the spring of 1911 a baseball team had been developed winning ten of the fifteen games played

during the season and the students had organized a cheering section to encourage the team. In the spring of 1912, Normal Athletic Association was organized. In the fall of 1912, the first football teams were organized at Western. A tennis court was constructed in 1912. Some of the students played tennis, although there were no matches with the teams of other schools. Basketball was also organized in 1912.

DD: Did you all ever go to any of those ballgames?

Mrs G: The Western Kentucky State Teachers College celebrated November the 5th, 6th, 7th, 1931 its completion of a quarter of a century of service to the education and dedicated with formal ceremony its intellectual and physical equipment to the improvement of education in the Commonwealth. There was an interesting program which started at Van Meter Hall with F. C. Grise, dean of the college, presiding, with music, the audience singing College Heights. The invocation for this was held by the Reverend C. D. Level. The music, vocal solo, was by Miss Gladys Simms. The welcome address was given by Flem D. Sampson, governor of Kentucky. At this time _____ was a member of the Board of Regents and was presiding at the 12:30 luncheon at the Cedar House. In the services in the Van Meter Hall, Dr. A. M. Stickles, the head of the Department of History, was presiding, ...meeting of the celebration, Dr. A. B. Crabb, who was at that time professor of education at George Peabody College and was presiding and the invocation was given by Dr. A. B. House. Dr. House was one of the greatest influences in Bowling Green as pastor of the Christian Church. He was here for many years and was loved by everyone that knew him. There was a violin solo given on this day by Hugh Johnson, who taught violin at Western for so many years. In the afternoon of this celebration the reception for delegates and visitors was given

by the President and Mrs. H. H. Cherry at the Cedar House. The evening meeting that day was presided over by Mr. T. C. Cherry, the brother of Dr. H. H. Cherry. The invocation for that meeting was given by Dr. George Cheek, who was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green and the father of one of the training school teachers, Mrs. Garrett.

DD: Dorothy Garrett.

Mrs G: The musical selections were given by the college Glee Club and a piano solo by Dr. Franz J. Strahm. The college song that was used in the program was "The Red and the Gray" sung by the students of the college. The benediction for that meeting was given by the Reverend Baxter Napier, the pastor of the State Street Methodist Church. On Saturday, the General Alumni meeting was presided over by Dr. T. O. Hall, the president of the Alumni Association. One of the addresses that was given at this time was given by Professor J. R. Alexander, who mentioned the esteem placed by staff and students upon certain spirits who have entered into the life of the institution. An interesting day at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College while Dr. Garrett was president, was the Mother's Day Program. The Mother's Day luncheon with Mrs. H. R. Mathers presiding was held in Potter Dining Hall, November 12, 1939. This was an interesting time for us. Mrs. Archie Skinner gave the invocation. Mrs. F. C. Grise gave greetings; her son, George Grise, sang "Sweet and Low." Later in the program he sang "Mother McCree." At this time we all remember the remarks of President Paul L. Garrett: At this luncheon Evelyn Willey was at the piano and Frances Matthews at the cello. The College Heights Foundation was incorporated on July 17, 1923. It's a tax-exempt foundation administered by a twelve member board of directors. The president of the

college serves as president of the corporation. It's affairs are administered by executive secretary-treasurer. The primary purpose of the College Heights Foundation is to provide assistance to worthy students through a carefully supervised loan program, to administer scholarships, to accept the responsibility of administering programs for the college which will enable deserving students to finance their educational programs when such need exists and to aid the college in any other way possible. Scholarship funds established by Charles R. Martin honoring four former members of the Western Faculty. The four former members were: Dr. A. M. Stickles, George V. Page, Dr. F. C. Grise, the fourth former Western faculty member, Dr. N. O. Taft. This scholarship fund has continued to increase over the years and has been used by many outstanding students, and Dr. Martin continues to add to the amount of the scholarship and it grows from year to year. There were institutes over the district and another duty that they had that took their time was making commencement speeches at graduation time at the different high schools in the state. The heads of the departments were much in demand for speakers at the high school commencements. One of the first official actions of H. H. Cherry as president of the State Normal was to nominate as dean of the school Dr. A. J. Kinneman, who resigned as president of Central Normal in Danville, Indiana to accept the position. In this connection, it might be said that one of the most significant acts of the joint meetings of the Board of Regents in June of 1906 had been the adoption of the following resolution: "That the president of each school shall nominate the members of the faculty of the school of which he is president, subject to the approval of the board of Regents of that school for which they are nominated." Dr. Kinneman was one of the first people that I was introduced to and that I knew when I first came to Western and one of the most interesting characters that I have ever known.

DD: He was dean right before Daddy was, wasn't he?

Mrs. G: A graduate of Indiana University and Clark University, Dr. Kinneman gained for Western during its early years as the struggling Normal School much needed respect from colleges and universities. November 17, 1907, the Southern Normal officially became the Western Kentucky State Normal. In 1908 five people who were to give many years of service to Western were added to the faculty. They were: Malcom A. Leiper, J.H. Clagett, W. J. Craig, A. M. Stickles, and Miss Florence Ragland. Professor Leiper served as head of the English Department until his retirement from active service in 1923. Professor Clagett taught classes in Shakespeare, Milton until a few months before his death in 1937. To the students and alumni of Western, W. J. Craig had been for years Uncle Billy, director of personnel of the school. Dr. A. M. Stickles was head of the Department of History ever since he came to Western and is at present still active in 1938 as I remember him. Miss Florence Ragland had charge of the Western Library until 1922. Then from 1923-30 she did part-time teaching at Western. The Senior House became known as the Cedar House and in 1918 nearly all the cedars on the hill died as a result of a severe drought and ravages of bagworm. In the summer of 1920 several students, most of them members of the senior class of that year, stayed on the hill under the direction of Professors W. J. Craig, Henry Yarbrough, and George Page, cut the cedars, and with them built the Cedar House. The first attempt of a place at Western to publish an annual was known as The Vista. "It is a product of the best efforts in the time allotted to us. Take it for what it is worth. If you like it, our efforts have been rewarded; if not, our efforts have been in vain." The first dedication is to Dr. H. H. Cherry who "rules an unseen empire and wears an invisible crown. To him we dedicate with deepest love the first volume of The

DD: All right, what were some of the things - some of the buildings there?

Mrs. G: The Administration Building, the Recitation Hall, Frisbee Hall, and pictures from the Old Fort were things of interest that were pictured in the front of The Vista. Cabell Hall was one of the first beautiful buildings that was taken away from the Western hill. In the front of The Vista is a picture of the dining room and the hallway of old Cabell Hall which was such a beautiful building. In the picture of the dining room is pictured a beautiful grand mahogany dining table which is still in existence and which I have enjoyed seeing over the years that I have been here. It belongs to some of my friends who bought it when the furniture from Cabell Hall was sold. This beautiful table is in the dining room of the home of Dr. V. Graham, who was at one time a member of the faculty of Western. Two members of the Board of Regents that are pictured in the front of The Vista - Honorable J. Whit Potter was one of the Regents. Honorable W. J. Gooch was a Regent. He was the father of a very important member of Western faculty for years who taught music to so many of the students at Western, Mrs. Nell Gooch Travelstead, who will always be remembered as leading the singing in Western's chapel exercises. One of the most important members of the faculty that was probably the first one that I met when I came to the hill was Dr. A. J. Kinneman who was the dean of the school. Miss Mattie McClean was the secretary to President Cherry. Miss Florence agland was the librarian and will always be remembered for her attempt to keep order in the library. Dr. J. H. Clagett was the head of the English department and endeared himself to all of his English students. Uncle Billy Craig, we call him, was the head of the science department at this time. Dr. A. M. Stickles was the head of the History department. A very important member of the faculty at this time was Franz

J. Strahm, dean of the music department. Quotations under his picture say: "Work, work, work, and then work some more." Dr. M. A. Leiper was the head of the Latin department and endeared himself to so many who taught and worked with him over the years. F. C. Grise is pictured in The Vista as part of the Latin department. The quotation from his picture says: "Take away the possibility of trusting and being trusted and life becomes a desert waste devoid of flowers, words, and sunshine." Mr. J. R. Alexander was pictured in the faculty group who was head of the mathematics department. A most outstanding person who had his own particular beliefs and ways of expressing them. His was a strong personality that will always be remembered by those who knew him. Mrs. Nell Gooch Travelstead, who's father was one of the Regents pictured in front of The Vista, is in the faculty group and the quotation from her picture says: "You can make yourself whatsoever you will if you work." Mrs. T. C. Cherry was one of the loveliest, most outstanding personalities I have ever known. She taught the Department of Education. His work with the Rural School on Western campus was very outstanding. His quotation of big words helped to conceal small thoughts: "Modesty is not only its own safeguard, but the best kind of advertisement." Miss Mattie Hatcher is pictured in with the faculty in The Vista. She was supervisor of the training school. Just one short statement under her picture described her so well: "Keep at it." M. C. Ford was head of the agriculture department. He believed strongly: "Education is a preparation of life." These are some of the ones that I remember the best of the faculty at the time The Vista was printed. This copy of The Vista was put out in 1915. Besides the members of the faculty that I have mentioned, there are so many others whose pictures bring back memories of wonderful friendships that we enjoyed over the years as we watched Western grow. I find in the pictures in The Vista....pictures of the class of 1915, Victor Herbert Strahm, who

was the son of our Professor Strahm. Victor Strahm was killed over in Germany during the War. There's another picture in The Vista of F. W. McCheney, who later became a very important member of the faculty of Western and still lives near Western campus. In this issue of The Vista I find a beautiful picture of Louise Carson who became the wife of Dr. W. P. Drake and who was a very important member of the Board of Regents of Western. Mrs. Bell Potter's picture is in this copy of The Vista, and for here one of the schools of Bowling Green carries her name. Miss Ethel Clark was one of the most important teachers that carried on at the Rual School under the direction of Mr. Burton.

DD: In here in The Vista is the yell for the senior class of that year: "Zig, zig, zig, zig, zig, zig, zoom; Rig, rag, rig, rag, room; acker backer, soda cracker, zip, boom, bah; WKS N, Rah! Rah! Rah!" Our cheerleaders need to take that one on. In this issue of The Vista in the athletic section of it, besides Western having a varsity basketball team - men's they had a women's varsity team, and besides that the Senior class had a basketball team and I see here that one of the members of that basketball team was Nettie Layman who later became Mrs. Roy Matthews, who was at one time one of the teachers in the training school. They also had a beaseball team, but it's now new that Western should have a girl's basketball team. They had a track and a football team. This issue of The Vista tells something about The Elevator. In the month of November 1909, the first issue of The Elevator was published. It's aim as stated in the editorial was to "publish the very best literary productions of the student body, whether term finals or otherwise, to solicit and publish articles from the graduates of the Normal who are now making good out in the field, to insert such clippings as are applicable to give the general news of the school and whatever items we can obtain concerning the work and the welfare of the

Normalitist now laboring in the little red school house. In a word, to bring into closer relationship everyone connected with the institution, to reinforce the tie that extends all the way from the freshman to the president." The first step was an able one. The associate editor was Gertrude Grimsley, Lucille Wade, Chesterfield Turner, H. W. Jingles, and later in the year, our own Carl Adams. The editor-in-chief was Alfred Crabb. He has made himself famous by writing many books. For one year he worked making The Elevator indispensable to the school. At the end of that time, he gave up his desk and pen to Mr. G. C. Morris who kept them until February, 1911, and at this point, Gordon Wilson assumed the task of making The Elevator go up. In the back of the book of The Vista, the stores who advertised were stores where my parents certainly went to buy things every now and then. There is the Callas Brothers Store which used to be on 10th Street, the Carpenter, Dent, & Sublet Drugstores which we still have today. There was E. Nahm & Company down on Mainstreet; The Bazaar, which was Greenspan brothers store; Toy's Barber Shop; Munkle's Bookstore; The Palace down on the corner of Park Row and State Street. We had a YMCA, the Allison Clothing Company down on Park Row, J. W. Campbell, Jeweler, and it says "Look for the big clock," and that big clock stayed down there close to American National Bank until about two or three years ago when somebody ran into it and knocked it down. William's Shoe Store; S. B. Duncan on 13th Street; Pushin's Department Store which is still a part of Bowling Green; The Dalton Studio where you would go to have your picture made; Rabold and Phillips Ice Cream Parlor; The Remington Typewriter Company; Swift & Company and then last, The School of Music by Franz J. Strahm, who was dean. It says: "For further information, write Dean Strahm or President H. H. Cherry, State Normal School, Bowling Green, Kentucky."

Normalitist now laboring in the little red school house. In a word, to bring into closer relationship everyone connected with the institution, to reinforce the tie that extends all the way from the freshman to the president." The first step was an able one. The associate editor was Gertrude Grimsley, Lucille Wade, Chesterfield Turner, H. W. Jingles, and later in the year, our own Carl Adams. The editor-in-chief was Alfred Crabb. He has made himself famous by writing many books. For one year he worked making The Elevator indispensable to the school. At the end of that time, he gave up his desk and pen to Mr. G. C. Morris who kept them until February, 1911, and at this point, Gordon Wilson assumed the task of making The Elevator go up. In the back of the book of The Vista, the stores who advertised were ~~stores~~ where my parents certainly went to buy things every now and then. There is the Callas Brothers Store which used to be on 10th Street, the Carpenter, Dent, & Sublet Drugstores which we still have today. There was E. Nahm & Company down on Mainstreet; The Bazaar, which was Greenspan brothers store; Toy's Barber Shop; Munkle's Bookstore; The Palace down on the corner of Park Row and State Street. We had a YMCA, the Allison Clothing Company down on Park Row, J. W. Campbell, Jeweler, and it says "Look for the big clock," and that big clock stayed down there close to American National Bank until about two or three years ago when somebody ran into it and knocked it down. William's Shoe Store; S. B. Duncan on 13th Street; Pushin's Department Store which is still a part of Bowling Green; The Dalton Studio where you would go to have your picture made; Rabold and Phillips Ice Cream Parlor; The Remington Typewriter Company; Swift & Company and then last, The School of Music by Franz J. Strahm, who was dean. It says: "For further information, write Dean Strahm or President H. H. Cherry, State Normal School, Bowling Green, Kentucky."

Mrs. G: To trade with these stores we didn't have a car to jump in and run downtown to buy things - we walked. We walked to town, we pushed our baby buggy, and bought things for our home and our children and rolled the buggy to carry them home. We walked to church on Sunday morning. My husband walked up the hill up College Street, past a grocery store in the corner of College and 13th Street and left a list with the store for what groceries we needed, which were to be delivered to our house on 13th Street. In those days, Western's salaries were not enough that we could even have a telephone and enjoy things that we think so little of this day and time. On Sunday afternoon for recreation the _____, the Grise's and the Gordon Wilson's took the baby buggies with the children in them and went walking and enjoyed Bowling Green more than we have an opportunity to enjoy it now that it has become so complicated. We enjoyed dinners, anniversary dinners together. We enjoyed birthday dinners together. We were some of the younger members of the faculty who came to Western the same year, sixty years ago. We brought up our families together and they enjoyed the friendships and the instruction of the training school where at one time there were five in one graduating class - there were five Matthews that graduated in the class at the training school one year. The training school was most important at that time for the education of the children of the faculty. We learned to know and love some wonderful teachers who influenced and trained our children: Miss Sue Howard, to whom we would pay respect and love for what she meant to the children who graduated from Western; Miss Polly McClure, who was a very important history teacher for all of our faculty children that went through the training school. The P. T. A. meetings were organized even though the principal of the training school did not approve. But he definitely objected to any thought of the P. T. A. was to make close and better friendships and companionships with the teachers and the parents of the

students that were in the school. It was for this purpose that the P. T. A. was organized, not for making money.

DD: We'd like to give you a few things concerning Founder's Day at Western which is an annual affair, and this came from the College Heights Herald of November, 1932. "In 1930, the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State Teachers College passed a regulation designating November 16 as Founder's Day. President H. H. Cherry's birthday falls on that date. In view of the fact that the school celebrated its 25th birthday anniversary only a few days before that time in the fall of 1931, it was thought best not to arrange any formal exercises for the occasion last year" (now remember this is from 1932). "This occasion on November 16th this year was noted in a brief and formal exercise at the chapel period. The program consisted of an appropriate song by the entire school, a statement by Dean F. C. Grise, the presentation of the bouquet of chrysanthemums to President Cherry by the faculty, and a brief response by President Cherry. The statement made by Dean Grise follows:

'At this time I desire to make a very brief statement in which I am sure every member of the faculty and student body will be greatly interested, and in the spirit of which I believe that our distinguished visitors will be glad to participate. For half a century and more Western Kentucky State Teachers College and its predecessors, the State Normal School and the Western Kentucky State Normal School, have been striving continuously and consistently, we think, for the realization of higher standards in the profession of teaching, for the equality of educational opportunity for every child, and the enlargement of life for all citizens of our Commonwealth. For forty years

these institutions have had a continuous history under the management of one great president, who throughout his entire professional career has been on the very forefront of educational advancement in our state. And who, in a large measure, was responsible for the establishment of state-supported teacher-training institutions in Kentucky 26 years ago. More than a quarter of a century ago, there came into existence a vision of a great school crowing a beautiful hill. A school with physical equipment adequate to its needs, a faculty trained, efficient, and loyal, and a course of study offering unsurpassed opportunities to students for the attainment of the objectives in which they were most interested, of which they were capable of realization and to which they were best suited in their efforts, to acquire a liberal preparation for life," and a through training in educational leadership in the state. Through the cooperative interests and goodwill of its friends, the loyalty of its student body and alumni, and the faithfulness of its faculty much of this dream has come true. For this achievement, however, the greatest credit is due our own leader and president who for forty consecutive years has been guiding the destinies of this institution and its immediate predecessors and who for 26 years has been at the helm of the Western Kentucky State Teachers College. In recognition of this service and of these achievements, the Board of Regents of this institution has designated November 16 as Founder's Day. It is also the birthday of our honored president. And so we feel that it is altogether fitting and proper at this time that we, the faculty and student body, take a moment

to join in pledging anew our fidelity to our institution, in rededicating our lives to the cause of education in Kentucky, in extending to President Cherry our enthusiastic and warmhearted greetings on his birthday, in reassuring him our loyal support in the further realization of his dream and vision, and in breathing a prayer that many fruitful and happy years may yet remain to him as he continues to lead and inspire us in our efforts to achieve, "Life, more life" for the childhood of our great old Commonwealth."

And remember this came from the College Heights Herald, November, 1932.

Mrs. G: To add to this, on this date the Founder's Day was celebrated on Tuesday, November the 21st, 1939 and November 16th, the birthday of late President Cherry, the Kentucky Building on the campus of Western Teacher's College was formally dedicated November 16, with elaborate exercises held in Van Meter Auditorium and at the Kentucky Building. The presentation of the building to the state of Kentucky by Professor J. R. Alexander and the acceptance of it by Paul L. Garrett, Western president who represented the Commonwealth took place just before noon and climaxed the completion of the unusual project which began ten years ago. At the conclusion of the program, the public viewed for the first time a large oil portrait of the late H. H. Cherry former president of Western who conceived the idea of the Kentucky Building. The portrait, which hangs on the west wall of the main reception room, was painted by Miss E. Sofrinia. How do you pronounce this name?

DD: Hergesleimer, I guess.

Mrs. G: Hergesleimer, Sofrinia Hergesleimer, nationally-known artist of Nashville. The painting was completed several months ago, but the announcement of its creation was withheld until today. Payment of the portrait was made from a surplus left over in the H. H. Cherry bronze state fund.

DD: I would like to read something a little sentimental, perhaps, that was written by my brother, George Calvin Grise, who, when he was a senior at Western in the year 1939-40, was editor of the College Heights Herald. He wrote a column which he called "The lamplighter" and this one is entitled "The Tower Light."

"In the beginning, I suppose, it is always proper to christen a journalistic endeavor such as this with a light sprinkling of explanation. I doubt whether many Western students and alumni are aware of the fact that there is hidden in the tiny colonnade atop of the tower of Cherry Hall a powerful light which when turned on can be seen from far off, but it lends new and peculiar shapes to the objects on which its beams fall. It shows things which before we had not noticed: a bit of cornice here, a reflection from the water tank there, grotesque shadows of branches where once reposed the still remembered spoonholder. All this and more would behold whose duty it would be to ascend the tower at twilight and light the lamp. By now I expect you have completed my analogy and I hope you will always be as kind in completing what, in my haste, I leave unperfected. As the "Lamplighter" I shall try to present as I see them from my hypothetical tower old thoughts in new dresses, familiar scenes against novel backgrounds, and to cause light to shine from a new angle on Western's more prosaic happenings: A bit of unsuspected cornice here; and unseen reflection there. About a year ago I penned a bit of sentimental indignation on

the fact that one of our campus landmarks and favorite tristing places was being allowed to decay and seemingly to pass from existence unnoticed. Such, however, was not to be the fate of the old bridge that crosses the rock-lined trench Fort Albert Sydney Johnson. Today it has been repaired and appears ready for many more years of inspiring the short of stature to look upward at its rustic strength and the above six-footers to bow their heads in humble respect for its tradition as they dodge beneath its cedar beams. From NB to CH is a change in campus nomenclature as represented by the abbreviations of the class schedules. When the new classroom building was being built and was first occupied, it was universally called the New Building and appeared as such on the schedule. It is an unconscious tribute to the memory of Western's founder that shortly after his name was carved on the face of the structure, it became unanimously Cherry Hall." "Every year in the month of November Western holds her annual homecoming, "This, too, is from "Tower" by "The Lamplighter"). Last year I sat in the rear of Van Meter auditorium and heard members of our past graduating classes who have distinguished themselves introduced to others fortunate like themselves to be back on the Hill. I heard them praised for what they had done and heard them respond in glowing terms of tribute to the institution and spirit and that is Western. As I left the auditorium and wandered out into the marble-lined corridor, I felt thrilled that College Heights had filled her mission so nobly that all the sons and daughters of the Hill felt moved to return once a year and pay sincere homage to her ideals and achievements. But as I emerged onto the sunlit walk by the side of the fort, I looked down and noticed the doorstep amde from native limestone. It's not level anymore, but it is worn and hollowed. Yes, even hollowed by the eager tread of others such as I. By those two thousand still praising and being praised in the auditorium only very slightly. Then it seememd that I could

the 60,000 others that have attended Western marching for a brief period back and forth over this very doorstep. But where were they that day in November? Some had passed on; some lived too far away. The rest are just plain ordinary people - some good, some bad, some neither - doing plain, ordinary things. Are they, too, proud of their college? Do they attribute their limited successes to her, or do they blame her for their mediocre existence? As I passes on thoughtfully over the fort I could not help wondering: Ten years from now, will I be one of the two thousand, or will I be only another whose feet have helped wear that doorstep lying mutely in the morning sun?" It's too bad that doorstep has been fixed and those people who are at Western now do not know anything about that worn step. I walked over it many times. I would like to end this taping of things concerning Western and during the sixty years when my parents have been here by reading a short paragraph, a quotation from the book that my brother, George Grise, which he called Life with Hezzie.

"Some smart men have said life is like a road, but none that I ever heard of have pondered how like life a road may be; at least it seems so to me. It has high spots and low spots, rough ones and smooth, but mostly it can be filled with memories that can be lived and relived as long as we be." Thank you for letting us visit with you concerning these things of Western in the years past.

END OF INTERVIEW